

REMARKS

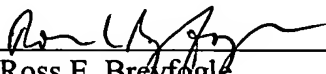
This First Preliminary Amendment accompanies a first submission of items concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. § 371.

Please enter the amendments to the claims presented herewith prior to calculation of excess claim and multiple dependent claim fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.492 (d)-(f). After entry of the amendments submitted herewith, Claims 1-14, 19-29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 40-46, 48, and 51-54 remain pending in the application. The amendments to the Claims made herewith are for the purpose of reducing the claim fees, and are not narrowing in scope and are not being made for any reason related to patentability. Moreover, the amendments are made without prejudice and without dedication or disclaimer of any subject matter. Specifically reserved is a right to pursue additional claims in one or more continuing applications pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §120.

Respectfully submitted,

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